

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A; Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

<p style="text-align:center">NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS AND CEQA SCOPING MEETINGS in order to develop an amendment to the Regional Water Quality Control Plan of the North Coast Region to protect stream and wetlands systems</p>

PURPOSE

This public notice is to inform interested persons that the California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) will hold three public workshops and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meetings in order to develop and adopt an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) that will protect stream and wetlands systems, including measures to protect riparian areas and floodplains. These public meetings will serve as opportunities to identify and discuss the scope of potential environmental impacts of the amendment in accordance with the CEQA. Regional Water Board staff will also present an overview of current research on the role of stream and wetlands systems in protecting water quality.

The Regional Board will take no action at these public meetings. Staff will open the scoping meetings pursuant to the CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, §§21000-21177) to discuss and take oral and/or written comments from the public on revisions to the Basin Plan. The scoping meetings will be held in compliance with the terms of the Water Board's certified regulatory program for basin planning under CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15251, subd.(g)). All comments will be included in the final administrative record.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Water Board is the lead state agency charged with the protection of water quality in the North Coast Region, which encompasses watersheds from the Oregon state border to the Estero de San Antonio that drain to the Pacific Ocean, and includes Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties and portions of Siskiyou, Sonoma, Glenn, Modoc, Lake and Marin counties. The Basin Plan contains water quality objectives and identifies action plans to meet those objectives. The Regional Water Board conducts a formal public process for all amendments to its Basin Plan.

The goals of the proposed amendment are:

- To achieve water quality standards and protect beneficial uses of waters of the state
- To protect drinking water through natural water quality enhancement and protection of groundwater recharge zones
- To restore habitat and protect aquatic species and wildlife
- To enhance flood protection through natural functions of stream and wetlands systems
- To restore the associated recreational opportunities, green spaces and neighborhood amenities that water resources provide
- To protect property values and community welfare by protecting natural environments
- To encourage local watershed planning and support local control of water resources
- To improve Regional Water Board permitting and program efficiency

The proposed amendment will achieve these goals by recognizing that it is necessary to protect and restore the physical characteristics of stream and wetlands systems—stream channels, wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains—including their connectivity and natural hydrologic regimes, to achieve water quality standards and protect beneficial uses. The amendment will clarify that stream and wetlands system protection and restoration are viable forms of pollution prevention in all land use settings, and that the strategies of pollutant source control and stream and wetlands system protection need to be integrated to complete the entire watershed water quality management strategy. The amendment will be based on sound scientific principles and will develop reasonable methods to protect water quality.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS AND CEQA SCOPING MEETINGS

Eureka Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting

Date: May 3, 2006
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Place: Red Lion Inn
1929 Fourth Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Yreka Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting

Date: May 4, 2006
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Place: Yreka Community Center
810 North Oregon Street
Yreka, CA 96097

Santa Rosa Public Workshop and CEQA Scoping Meeting

Date: May 8, 2006
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Directions to the Santa Rosa workshop and scoping meeting location can be found on the Regional Water Board website. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should contact Jean Lockett, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2307, at least five days prior to the scheduled workshop. The meeting locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding the scoping meetings should be directed to Lauren Clyde at LClyde@waterboards.ca.gov or (707) 576-2674 or Bruce Ho at BHo@waterboards.ca.gov or (707) 576-2460. Additional information regarding the proposed amendment to the Basin Plan can be found on the Regional Water Board website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/programs/basinplan/swspp.html> or by calling the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board at (707) 576-2220.